based on expert technical advice, design and operaing practices at these staions are improved to ensure that accidents do not occur.

Pollution of sea water at Bombay Port

2192. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite existence of stringent laws to combat oil and sewage pollution of sea water, the Bombay port continues to remain badly polluted resulting in health hazards and damage to marine growth and aquatic life, as reported in Aquaworld of August, 1986; and

(b) What are the plans to control marine pollution and possible use of sea water for drinking/agriculture after desalination through solar power, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is no doubt that pollution exists in the Bombay Port. This is caused by the discharge of untreated sewage, industrial effluents, solid waste etc. into the sea. This affects the fish and other acquatic life.

(b) The maintenance of pollution-free marine environment in the port is the responsibility of the Port Trust. The Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board and the State Government are responsible for ensuring that land based pollutants are not discharged into the sea and for enforcing pollution control laws. They have their own plans for controlling marine pollution and these are being implemented.

At present, technology is available in the country for desalinating brackish water so as to make it fit for drinking. The State Governments are making use of this technology to provide drinking water to small communities, where feasible. The technologies developed make use of solar power or reverse osmosis. The Department of Ocean Development has two demonstration plants based on reverse osmosis which are producing drinking water in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Technology has not so far emerged for desalinating sea water and for undertaking desalination on such a large scale as to make water available for agriculture.

Extension of Ganga Action Plan to all the rivers and water tanks

2193. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan is likely to be extended to all the rivers and water tanks in the country on the lines of the successful experiments with London's Rivers Thames, as reported in Aquaworld of August, 1986.

(b) whether the new perspective plan for rivers in India has been worked out within a tight time-frame and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also likely to make drinking water available throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no proposal at present for taking up schemes similar to Ganga Action Plan in other rivers.

(b) No perspective plan has been worked out for pollution control on the lines of Ganga Action Plan for rivers in India.

(c) Does not arise.

Public Distribution System in remote areas

2194. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Centre's programme for distribution of essential commodities is not being properly implemented in the remote areas by the State Governments; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake an independent